

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL

FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES DATED JULY 16,
1974:

1. QUOTE GREEK GIFT TO CYPRUS

IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT OF GREECE DATED JULY 6,
ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS ACCUSED THE MILITARY RULERS IN ATHENS
OF PLANNING TO MURDER HIM AND FURNISHED WHAT HE CALLED
"IRREFUTABLE" EVIDENCE THAT GREEK OFFICERS COMMANDING
THE CYPRUS NATIONAL GUARD WERE PLOTTING WITH "EOKA B"
UNDERGROUND FORCES TO OVERTHROW HIS GOVERNMENT. HE
DEMANDED THAT GREECE RECALL THE 650 OFFICERS.

ATHENS EITHER STALLED OR REFUSED THE ARCHBISHOP'S REQUEST.
THE RESULT WAS THE TRAGIC EVENT OF YESTERDAY, WHICH
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THREATENS TO IGNITE NOT ONLY CIVIL WAR IN CYPRUS BUT

CONFLAGRATION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY THAT COULD DESTROY NATO'S SOUTHERN FLANK AND CARRY THE SEEDS OF A WIDER, MULTINATIONAL CONFLICT.

THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS AND THE FATE OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS REMAIN UNCLEAR; BUT THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS BARBARIC PUTSCH RESTS WITH THE SQUALID MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN GREECE. GENERAL IOANNIDES AND HIS FACELESS HENCHMEN CONSCIOUSLY AND DELIBERATELY CONDONED AGGRESSION AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE PLEDGE THAT THEY REAFFIRMED ONLY LAST MONTH IN NATO'S ATLANTIC DECLARATION.

IT IS ALMOST BEYOND BELIEF THAT THE GREEK OFFICERS WOULD ATTEMPT TO INSTALL AS PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS ONE NICOS SAMPSON, CONFESSED MURDERER, PROFESSIONAL BULLY BOY AND FANATICAL SUPPORTER OF ENOSIS (UNION WITH GREECE). THIS ACTION LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE GOAL OF THE COUP AGAINST PRESIDENT MAKARIOS IS IN FACT THE UNION WITH MAINLAND GREECE WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP LONG AGO ABANDONED AS UNREALISTIC IN THE FACE OF TURKISH OPPOSITION.

ENOSIS IS INDEED AN UNREALISTIC OBJECTIVE AND THE FIRST MOVE IN THAT DIRECTION BY THE USURPERS IN NICOSIA IS CERTAIN TO BRING A MILITARY REACTION FROM TURKEY THAT WILL SHATTER THE FRAGILE PEACE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS, MAINTAINED FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS BY A UNITED NATIONS FORCE.

CLEARLY THE FIRST GOAL OF AMERICAN, ALLIED AND UNITED NATIONS DIPLOMACY MUST BE TO PREVENT WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. UNLESS THAT CAN BE HEADED OFF, THE WHOLE VOLATILE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COULD BLOW UP. THE UNITED NATIONS IS UNQUESTIONABLY THE PLACE FOR THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS TO BRING ITS CASE AGAINST GREECE AND GREECE'S AGENTS ON THE ISLAND.

ONCE THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS IS PASSED THERE MAY BE TIME FOR SERIOUS RETHINKING ON THE PART OF THE STATE
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DEPARTMENT AND ESPECIALLY THE PENTAGON ABOUT THE WISDOM OF PROPPING UP WITH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MODERN MILITARY HARDWARE A REGIME IN ATHENS THAT HAS BURIED FREEDOM, TORTURED ITS CITIZENS AND NOW HAS COMMITTED AGGRESSION AGAINST ANOTHER COUNTRY.

WHAT HAPPENED ON CYPRUS YESTERDAY DRAMATIZES THE

BANKRUPTCY OF A CYNICAL UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD
GREECE. AFTER THAT TRAGEDY IT SHOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT
FOR AMERICAN POLICYMAKERS TO ARGUE THAT THE TYRANNY IN
GREECE IS STRICTLY A PROBLEM FOR THE GREEKS TO RESOLVE.
END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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